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Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004)

Note verbale dated 1 May 2013 from the Permanent Mission of Croatia to the United Nations addressed to the Committee

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Croatia to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) and, further to its note verbale dated 10 April 2013 (S/AC.44/2013/2), by which it forwarded its response to the request for additional information regarding the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), has the honour to forward an amended version of the above-mentioned response and kindly asks that the previous version be disregarded (see annex).

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Annex to the note verbale dated 1 May 2013 from the Permanent Mission of Croatia to the United Nations addressed to the Committee

Response of the Republic of Croatia to the request for additional information issued by the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004)

The National Strategy and the Action Plan for the Non-Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction was adopted by the Croatian Government on 10 January 2013. It defines the general framework of action of the Republic of Croatia pertaining to the suppression of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and provides guidelines for improving existing as well as developing new measures, mechanisms and instruments for the prevention and suppression of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. The Strategy provides guidelines for strengthening coordination between and the integration of activities of State bodies and public authorities and other legal entities in the Republic of Croatia, and cooperation with the State bodies and public authorities and other legal entities of foreign States and international organizations. The Strategy is an integral part of the Croatian national crisis management system.

Moreover, the Strategy demonstrates that Croatia contributes to global, regional and national security through its active and responsible approach to international cooperation on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, including by meeting all of its commitments stemming from Security Council resolutions, and adaptation to relevant standards of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the European Union.

On 15 March 2013, the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs hosted the first meeting of the National Commission on the Prevention of Weapons of Mass Destruction Proliferation, which was attended by representatives of the following relevant State administration bodies: the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration — Chair of the Commission; the Ministry of Defence; the Ministry of the Interior; the Ministry of the Economy, Labour and Entrepreneurship; the Ministry of Justice; the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare; the Ministry of the Sea, Transport and Infrastructure; the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Rural Development; the Ministry of Finance — Customs Administration and the Office for the Prevention of Money-Laundering; the State Attorney's Office of the Republic of Croatia; the Security and Intelligence Agency; the Military Security and Intelligence Agency; the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Croatia; the Coast Guard of the Republic of Croatia; the State Office for Radiological and Nuclear Safety; the National Protection and Rescue Directorate; and the National Computer Emergency Response Team and Information Systems Security Bureau.

Croatia has incorporated into its national legislation the highest international standards on regulating arms brokering, as set in the relevant European Union Common Position on the control of arms brokering and its Code of Conduct on Arms Export, in accordance with Wassenaar Arrangement provisions, the United Nations Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons, the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition and relevant resolutions of the General Assembly —

all requiring Member States or States parties to establish a system for regulating activities in brokering.

In cooperation with the Embassy of the United States of America in Zagreb and the Export Control and Border Security Program of the United States Department of State, Croatia co-organized a regional seminar on the brokering of military and dual-use Goods, held in Zagreb on 26 March 2013. Croatia decided to co-organize this regional seminar for a second time, primarily because the topic of brokering deserves greater attention at the regional level in south-eastern Europe. The focus of the seminar was on providing assistance on the legal harmonization of brokering activities, as well as stronger regional cooperation, with the aim of helping these countries meet the myriad challenges of combating the illicit trade in military and dual-use goods.

Croatia is also active in the European Union Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Risk Mitigation Centres of Excellence Initiative. The Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs hosted an international meeting on the mitigation of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear threats in Zagreb on 4 October 2012. This meeting, which was the fourth meeting of south-eastern European national representatives, was organized to strengthen cooperation between countries in the region, the European Union and United Nations partners, and other relevant international organizations.

From 10 to 28 September 2012, the Croatian company Petrokemija Kutina participated in the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) Associate Programme. Through this type of cooperation, the first of its kind for Croatia, we would like to develop the ability to establish stronger links with the business sector and chemical industry.

OPCW and the National Authority of the Republic of Croatia organized the Regional Training Course for Customs Authorities on the Technical Aspects of the Transfers Regime of the Chemical Weapons Convention, held in Zagreb from 27 to 31 August 2012. The proper implementation of the transfers regime of the Chemical Weapons Convention is a key obligation under the Convention and ensures the fullest possible exchange of chemicals for peaceful purposes. The regional training course covered a variety of different aspects of the transfers regime.

OPCW and RACVIAC Centre for Security Cooperation co-organized a tenth seminar on the Chemical Weapons Convention, from 18 to 21 March 2013, in Rakitje, Croatia. The seminar focused on article X of the Convention and on implementation issues, the OPCW capacity-building activities and the role and capabilities of OPCW in delivering assistance to States parties and investigating allegations of chemical weapons use. The seminar also highlighted the long-standing strong cooperation between RACVIAC and OPCW.

The Twelfth Regional Meeting of National Authorities of States Parties in Eastern Europe will be held in Zagreb from 14 to 16 May 2013. The meeting is designed to provide an opportunity for interaction among personnel of national authorities who are involved in the national implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention. The representatives of national authorities in Eastern Europe will have the opportunity to review and discuss issues related to the practical implementation of the Convention.